(c) to what extent, the financial burden would increase due to creation of these posts in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a proposal for creation of 2661 posts in the non-gazetted cadre in RPF. The proposal is pending with Ministry of Finance for ratification.

(c) Rs. 23.98 Crores approximately.

Problems of hawkers in Railways

1496. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a group of 30 Members of Parliament met him and demanded solution of problems of hawkers in Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a committee has been formed to look into the problems and find out the solutions; and

(c) whether Government are also aware that inspite of above, hawkers are regularly being tortured physically by RPF in Eastern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Some Members of Parliament have submitted a jointly signed memorandum regarding problems of hawkers in Railways.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Unauthorized hawking/vending in station premises or on trains is illegal and prohibited and constitutes an offence under Section 144 of Indian Railways Act, 1989 and Railways (Second Amendment) Act of 2003. Instructions have been given to Zonal Railways to curb this menace.

No specific complaint has been received so far from any corner regarding atrocities/assault/torture against hawkers by any Railway Protection Force staff.

Accommodation for railway employees

†1497. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accommodation is not available for 40-50 per cent of employees;

(b) whether the quarters available are very old and dilapidated; and

(c) what is the plan for construction of new quarters for the employees?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.